

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT200416117 | FOR FURTHER ACTION | | See item 4 below |
| International application No. PCT/JP2004/018874 | International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 17 December 2004 (17.12.2004) | Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 16 January 2004 (16.01.2004) | |
| International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237 | | | |
| Applicant NIPPON SEIKI CO., LTD. | | | |

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

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| Date of issuance of this report 22 August 2006 (22.08.2006) |
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| The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70 | Authorized officer Masashi Honda e-mail: pt08@wipo.int |
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

TRANSLATION
PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | Date of mailing (day/month/year) |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT200416117 | | FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below |
| International application No. PCT/JP2004/018874 | International filing date (day/month/year) 17.12.2004 | Priority date (day/month/year) 16.01.2004 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC | | |
| Applicant NIPPON SEIKI CO., LTD. | | |

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application |

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/018874

| Box No. I | Basis of this opinion |
|-----------|---|
| 1. | With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. <input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)). |
| 2. | With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of: a. type of material <input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing <input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing b. format of material <input type="checkbox"/> in written format <input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form c. time of filing/furnishing <input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed. <input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form. <input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search. |
| 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished. |
| 4. | Additional comments: |

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/018874

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees the applicant has:
 - paid additional fees
 - paid additional fees under protest
 - not paid additional fees
2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is:
 - complied with
 - not complied with for the following reasons:

The invention of the independent claim 1 is characterized in that audio information on travel is provided. The invention of the independent claim 6 is characterized in that alarm content is provided in combination with a sound effect and voice. The invention of the independent claim 8 is characterized in that the content of opening or ending is reported. The invention of the independent claim 11 is characterized in the audio information and video information are used together. There is no technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical feature. Accordingly, the inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

4. Consequently, this opinion has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
 - all parts
 - the parts relating to claims Nos. _____

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| International application No. | PCT/JP2004/018874 |
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| Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
|-----------|--|

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims <u>4, 5, 7-10, 12-19</u> | YES |
| | Claims <u>1-3, 6, 11</u> | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims _____ | YES |
| | Claims <u>1-19</u> | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims <u>1-19</u> | YES |
| | Claims _____ | NO |

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP 9-86223 A (Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.), 31 March 1997

Document 2: JP 10-105885 A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 24 April 1998

Document 3: JP 11-42957 A (Toyota Motor Corp.), 16 February 1999

Document 4: JP 2003-104055 A (Equos Research Co., Ltd.), 09 April 2003

Document 5: JP 2002-2418 A (Denso Corp.), 09 January 2002

Document 6: JP 2000-65585 A (Alpine Electronics, Inc.), 03 March 2000

Claims 1-19

Documents 1, 2, and 3 disclose technology for providing audio information along with visual information relating to travel. In particular, documents 1 and 2 disclose technology for communicating audio information by voice.

Document 4 discloses technology for providing notification content as a combination of voice and sound effects.

Documents 5 and 6 disclose technology for prioritizing information and controlling an information providing device based on that priority.

Regardless of what sort of information such as the opening, ending, or time is communicated for the notification content, such a matter is a matter of design variation to be appropriately selected by a person skilled in the art.

Furthermore, the matter of decreasing the audio output and that of providing a customized mode are conventionally common technologies for a person skilled in the art.

Consequently, the inventions of claims 1-19 in the present application do not appear to be novel or to involve an inventive step based on documents 1-6 and the like.